

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00
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R 260710Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6143
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1582

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PLAB, ILO
SUBJECT : DEMARCHE WITH UAE ON 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 102699, (B) STATE 103404, (C) STATE 104945

Y. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTELS, AMBASSADOR SPOKE TO MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAIF GHUBBASH ON MAY 14 AND DCM SPOKE TO MIN LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS ABDALLAH MAZRU'I ON MAY 25 TO DISCUSS ISSUES BEFORE 63RD ILC DRAWING ON POINTS CONTAINED IN REF (A) IN SOME DETAIL.

2. MINISTER GHUBBASH REACTION WAS TO STATE THAT HE THOUGH IT WOULD BE A GREAT MISTAKE FOR THE US TO THREATEN TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO. WHILE HE WAS READY TO ACCEPT OUR ARGUMENT THAT USG DID NOT SEE ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION AS EXAMPLE OF DUE PROCESS AND THEREFORE VIEWED IT AS A DISREGARD OF ILO INVESTIGATORY PROCEDURES, HE WAS NOT SURE THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY MANY OTHER STATES. MORE-OVER, FOR THE US TO USE THE HEAVY CLUB OF "IF WE DO NOT GET IT OUR WAY, WE GET OUT" WOULD DO MORE TO WEAKEN ILO, BECAUSE OF DOMINANT ROLE US PLAYS IN ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THAN ARGUING WHETHER A PARTICULAR RESOLUTION WAS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF EXISTING ILO STANDARDS. HE THOUGH THESE
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ISSUES COULD BE ARGUED OUT WITHIN ILO CONTEXT WITHOUT RESORT TO THE HEAVY HAND. GHUBBASH NOTED THAT THERE ARE MANY DIVERGENCIES OF OPINION IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES, INCLUDING UNITED NATIONS, BUT THESE DIVERGENCIES HAVE NEVER BEEN RESOLVED IF ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM THE ORGANIZATIONS. OTHER THAN THAT, GHUBBASH DID NOT INDICATE WHAT UAE POSITION WOULD BE.

3. WHEN DCM LATER CALLED ON MINISTER OF LABOR MAZRU'I, LATTER STATED THAT HE WOULD HEAD UAE DELEGATION, STAYING IN GENEVA FOR ONE WEEK. MAZRU'I WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ADVISOR, MR. BAKRI, AND THREE WORKING LEVEL REPS FROM MINISTRY OF LABOR. AFTER LISTENING ATTENTIVELY TO PRESENTATION, MAZRU'I'S RESPONSE WAS THAT "AS AN ARAB STATE, WE MUST OF COURSE CONSULT WITH ARAB LEAGUE. BUT WE FAVOR A MODERATE POSITION. YOU MAY BE ASSURED WE WILL BE MORE MODERATE THAN OTHERS." MAZRU'I COMMENTED THAT "UAE BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE IN ILO. WE DON'T EXPECT THIS SESSION OF ILO TO BE EXTREME. WE BELIEVE REASONABLE POSITIONS WILL BE TAKEN." MAZRU'I ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGH US HAD BEEN RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION IT TOOK IN 1975--THAT IT HAD BROUGHT KEY ISSUE TO THE FORE. FINALLY HE NOTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH SAIF GHUBBASH, THAT THEY VALUED RELATIONS WITH US AND THAT HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO CONSULTING IN GENEVA.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE MAZRU'I'S WORDS OF REASSURANCE, THE ARAB LEAGUE POSITION WILL BE GOVERNING FACTOR AS FAR AS UAE IS CONCERNED. UAE WILL NOT GET OUT IN FRONT; IT MIGHT OCCASIONALLY JUST NOT BE PRESENT, BUT IT WON'T BREAK RANKS IN OUR FAVOR.
DICKMAN

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